

**Northern Maine Development Commission  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes of  
May 15, 2014**

**PLACE:** NMDC, Caribou  
**DATE:** May 15, 2014 3:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** Chair Don Guimond, Don Adams, Jim Bennett, Keith Brown, Mary Anne Buck, Tom Clowes, Jon Frederick, Denis Gagne, Jim Gagnon, Ray Mersereau, Christy Sirois, Wendell Spooner, Patricia Sutherland, Jim Tweedie and Terry Wade.

**Others Present:** James Cote-Save Maine's Bear Campaign (via Polycom), Robert Clark, Duane Walton, Judy Dinsmore, Robert Dorsey, Jon Gulliver, Ruby Bradbury and Theron Larkins, Aroostook Republican.

**1. Call to Order and Introductory Remarks:**

Chair Guimond welcomed everyone and reminded them to pass their travel vouchers in for reimbursement.

**2. Presentation: Bear Baiting Referendum:**

Mr. Cote presented to the Board via video conferencing. He explained the referendum will outlaw three methods of bear hunting: trapping, dogs and baiting.

He has been reaching out to organizations and individuals to inform them this is a Maine issue and supports Maine Fish and Wildlife, and outfitter industries.

Governor Lepage, Eliot Cutler and Representative Mike Michaud are in support of keeping the three bear hunting methods.

He explained the Humane Society of US is proposing this referendum.

The Campaign is strong and is focused to raise the budget to win. The other side will spend \$3 million on this referendum to support it. They will need to raise \$2.5 million. The Campaign fundraising has been excellent and needs all the help they can get. The support has been great. More money has been raised during this year's campaign than in the past.

Mr. Cote explained this type of issue in other states and the effect it had on the economy. He explained in Maine, we need to harvest 35-45 hundred black bears to make a healthy population. The recent recession has prevented hunters from traveling.

Ms. Sutherland inquired what the vote was 10 years ago. Mr. Cote indicated the Campaign won by 40 percentage points.

Mr. Gagne asked if this referendum fails, will they try to get bear baiting banned again. Mr. Cote indicated if Maine rejects this again, it will not come back for some time. A coalition of sportsmen will try and eliminate the possibility for people to take issues to referendum regarding our wildlife.

The vote will be an up or down on all of the three methods (trapping, dogs, baiting).

Ms. Sutherland asked how the vote in Southern Maine turned out 10 years ago. Mr. Cote indicated the Campaign lost York and Cumberland counties.

Ms. Buck announced bear was a problem when she was a child. Her father was a bear hunter and trapped 90 in his lifetime. Others would call him to hunt the nuisance bear for them.

Mr. Cote announced the \$1 million in bear license fees is matched with \$4 million of federal funds.

Mr. Adams asked how many other states allow baiting of bear. Mr. Cote indicated 87% of north America allows 1-3 of all of these methods. Baiting is a significant number. For more information he directed the Board members to visit the website at [www.savemainesbearhunt.com](http://www.savemainesbearhunt.com)

**MOTION:**

Motion made by Ms. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Wade to support the Save Maine's Bear Hunt Campaign.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed with Mr. Adams opposing and Mr. Tweedie abstaining.

Mr. Bennett indicated this is becoming an increasing concern with our towns and municipalities will have to put some money in the budget to deal with this.

**3. Approval of Executive Board f Directors Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2014:**

**MOTION:**

Motion made by Mr. Tweedie, seconded by Mr. Gagnon to approve the Executive Board of Directors meeting minutes of April 10, 2014 as presented.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

**4. Acceptance of the Agencywide Revenue and Expenditure Statement for the Period Ending April 30, 2014:**

The Agencywide Revenue and Expenditure Statement Report was provided with the financials for the Board's convenience.

Financial Summary:

The benchmark for the period ending April 30 is 83.3%.

Total Revenues are \$6,282,944 representing 76.5% or 6.8 points below the benchmark.

Total Expenses for the period were \$5,766,438 or 74.1% of our budgeted expenses or 9.2% points below the benchmark.

Agency Balance - \$516,561 of which \$500,000 is dedicated to the World Acadian Congress.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Gagne to approve the Agencywide Revenue and Expenditure Statement for the period ending April 30, 2014 as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

**5. Report of the Loan Review Committee:**

Loans closed/Approved/Denied/Modified Under Staff Authority:

From Sea to You working capital - Closed

Ryan Landers Lures working capital - Declined

DJ Morin Sons Construction home improvements - Approved

Matthew and Melissa Boutot to purchase Coffins General Store - Approved

Foreclosure on Sweden Street Hotspot and home attached to loan – Approved

Joshua Barnes and Matthew Maguire d/b/a Versa Athletics – Approved

Troy Haines working capital – Closed

Mr. Walton discussed the origination fees with the Board explaining our current policy is to charge a 1% origination fee on all loans. It is staff recommendation to change it to a 1% origination fee with a minimum of \$100. This will help cover the costs of smaller loans.

Mr. Walton reviewed the Loan Funds report. A copy is attached and made a part of these minutes.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Mersereau, seconded by Ms. Buck to accept the Loan Review Committee's report as presented.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

**6. Ratification of Service Contracts:**

There were no contracts to ratify.

**7. Authorization to Submit the Northern Maine Forest Products Industry Cluster Grants:**

- a. USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant for \$40,000

Mr. Clark indicated this will provide workforce development in training for harvesting, forest worker feeder system and contractor training. Earlier today we held the 2014 loggers training at Lakeview Restaurant in St. Agatha.

It will also be used to help create new value added products, promote a consistent state policy, develop a state competitive Economic Development plan and develop a communications package to support these objectives.

NMFPIC and IMCP Initiatives will launch NorthernStart VDO, implement the 5 year plan, support, expand and align forest worker and millwright training programs, development of supportive infrastructure, continue biomass conversions, restart Ashland Energy Park, provide rail improvements and locate biomass heating appliance manufacturer.

Funding:

USDA Rural Development - \$40,000

MTI - \$50,000

Match - \$50,000

Total Funding - \$140,000

This will begin in July.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Tweedie, seconded by Mr. Gagne to approve the RBEG submission and authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

- b. Maine Technology Institute Cluster Initiative Grant for \$50,000

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Mersereau, seconded by Mr. Tweedie to approve the MTI Cluster Initiative grant submission and authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary documents pertaining thereto.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

**8. Appoints to Brownfields Steering Committee:**

Mr. Clark stated Fred Corey expressed interest in serving on the Brownfields Steering Committee, but has not confirmed his interest yet. It was management's recommendation to table this agenda item until we are able to confirm the appointment with Mr. Corey.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Tweedie, seconded by Mr. Gagne to table this agenda item until confirmation can be made with Mr. Corey.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

**9. Establish Annual Meeting Date, Place and Time:**

Recommendation is to establish the Annual Meeting of Members for June 26, 2014 at Lakeview Restaurant in St. Agatha beginning at 4:00 p.m. following the Executive Board meeting which will begin at 3:00 p.m.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Mersereau, seconded by Ms. Sirois to hold the Annual Meeting of Members on June 26, 2014 at Lakeview Restaurant in St. Agatha. Executive Board meeting to begin at 3:00 p.m. and Annual Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

VOTE:

Motion voted on and passed.

Ms. Sutherland suggested an update on the World Acadian Congress be presented at the annual meeting.

**10. Aroostook Partnership for Progress Overview:**

Mr. Dorsey discussed the Prioritization Chart and the 4 sectors (energy, agriculture, forestry and manufacturing).

He explained McCains has cut their production which is a challenge. This will take 7-10 thousand acres out of production. This will be an opportunity for diversified crops or entice organic farmers to come here and use up some of this land.

**IMCP II Application Case Study:**

Mr. Dorsey announced 40 companies signed MOUs for the IMCP II application totaling \$550 million. The purpose is “Manufacturing Community” designation with funds going toward regional training and infrastructure.

**Opportunities Aroostook:**

Mr. Gulliver announced this is the creation of a website to post jobs and student’s resumes.

To date \$13,000 has been raised for Opportunities Aroostook.

Phase I has been launched to develop social media and establish an Aroostook network  
Phase II will launch the website (mid August); and  
Phase III will sustain our efforts

We are looking for an intern to create the social media piece, May 16<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for receiving resumes. Expected hire date will be by June 1.

Mr. Dorsey stated if employers are successful, they could donate to the website to help maintain it.

**EPIC Maine (Exploring Pathways to Industries and Careers):**

This event was geared toward businesses who are interested in hiring a younger workforce (target 16-24). Held at Eastern Maine Community College and sponsored by Husson, EMCC, Job Corps, National Guard and Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, it had 40 participating businesses plus Finance Authority of Maine, and Career Counseling in attendance. Presenters included Senators Collins and King, Representative Michaud, Ben Sprague and Colonel Mosher.

Displays were available all day. Businesses provided equipment, supplies and demonstrations at their booths. There were 600 young adults in attendance. The event will be held again in the Tri-County area and will also be duplicated in Aroostook County.

**Renewable Energy Update:**

Mr. Dorsey attended the Northeast Biomass Expo in Portland and indicated it was an excellent event.

He indicated APP’s 2014 Energy Fair suffered due to inclement weather and a variety of other events happening the same weekend. It has been suggested this event be moved to September.

Mr. Dorsey attended the Affordable Heat Consortium which offered good information. Banks are offering 15-20 year loans on systems. We need to learn more about solar and other trends that are emerging.

**Diversified Agriculture Update:**

Mr. Dorsey stated we have underutilized land that we need to use. We struggle with infrastructure, cold storage, transportation and access to market. This group explores how we can enhance the food systems we have.

**11. Other Business:**

Community Guided Planning Zoning Steering Committee (CGPZ):

Mr. Clark announced Doug Beaulieu has had scheduling conflicts and has not been able to attend the CGPZ Steering Committee meetings as much as he should. Therefore Mr. Beaulieu is recommending Paul Bernier take his place on the CGPZ Steering Committee.

**MOTION:**

Motion made by Ms. Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Tweedie to appoint Paul Bernier to the CGPZ Steering Committee to replace Doug Beaulieu.

**VOTE:**

Motion voted on and passed.

**12. Executive Director's Report:**

Accountant Position: Mr. Clark announced we received 14 applications for this position. Ten were local and the other four came from Islamabad, Washington, United Arab Emirates and New York.

Chair Guimond read the resignation letter from Board member Gene Conlogue. Mr. Conlogue has resigned as Town Manager of Houlton and no longer qualifies as a member of NMDC Executive Board.

**13. Adjournment:**

There being no further business to conduct, Chair Guimond declared the meeting adjourned at 4:09.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Bless  
Secretary